



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

DEFENSE OF COL. EDWARD HILL.

[WINDER PAPERS, VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY.]

To the Right hon^{ble} Herbert Jefferyes Esq^r Govern^r & Capt. Gen^l of Virginia & one of his Ma^{ties} Commiss^{rs} for Virginia affairs.

To the hon^{ble} Sr. John Berry Kn^t Francis Morrison Esq^r his Ma^{ties} Commiss^{rs} alsoe for Virgin^a affairs.

Edward Hill, in answeare to diverse fals scandalous articles draune up against him by the hands, cunning, skill, & Industry of James Ming, & Thom. Blayton delivered yo^r honn^{rs} in the behalfe, & as from the people of Charles City County,* humbly answearith:

May it please your honn^{rs}

I cannot but with trouble & sorrow consider, y^t to be called to a barr, & to be charged wth severall Crimes & Misdemeanors, & clamour'd against by a route of people, how base, mallicious, envious, & Ignorant soever, it is still a lessening of reputation & darkening of good fame let ones loyalty, inocency, Justice, & integrity be never soe great, & through such black dismall clouds, yet how many examples doeth all eyes afforde of brave, wise, Just & inocent good men that have fallen under the lash of that hidra the vulgar, & though I know, & could Instance many examples of that Kinde, I shall not but only take notice (& by the by) because bound up wth me in the same booke & penned by the same penn) of the right hon^{ble} s^r Will^m Berkley K^{nt} late Govern^r of Virginia, who by the Judg^{mt} of the moste wise of this country the severall grand assemblyes, hath been thought to have govnered this thirty odd years wth the moste candour, justice, wisdom, & integrity, that was possible for a man to governe, and more especially considering whome he had to governe, nevertheless now falsly clamoured ag^t since his departure, and give me leave to intimate to yo^r honn^{rs} 'tis possible the same base, poore, lowe spirits would upon the

* See Charles City Grievances, *Virginia Magazine of History, etc.*, October, 1895.

like occasion calluminate yo' honn^m how wise & Just soe ever, but may it please your honn^m I have many hopes & incouragem^{nt} that many (more worthy & prudent persons) have not had, the blessing of: first a most great, gracious, Just, & mercyfull King; Secondly that I am to give in my answeare to such honn^{ble} persons, from whome (I must owne to all the world) I have had a moste faire, Equall, & uninterrupted beareing, without the least discontinuance, although I am moste assured yo' honn^m eares hath been filled wth the clamours of mallicious men who have layde all manner of crimes to my charge, and indeed my inocency (of those designes of mischief layde to my charge) is a great incourag^{mt} to me, Although tis possible that in the course of twenty yeares twill be easy to finde many errors, and now may it please yo' honn^m I must pray that just favor, to looke upon me, as I truely am, a naked, unlearned & unskilled Virginian borne & bred who have not had the dress and learning of schools, nor have I the skill to Cloath vice like vertue, nor finde such excuses, as my most malliceous enemyes have done for their faults, (when they accuse the R^t hon^{ble} S^r Will^m Berkely to excuse themselves) but shall answeare as with that unskilled Virginian nakedness, soe in truth & inocency, And doe make a moste serious faithfull promis to your honn^m that I will not insert one falsity in my answeare, though it were to save my reputation, Not abscond one truth, And soe wth yo' honn^m leave I shall beginn wth the first article:

Article. 1.

That besides the great quantity of tob^o Raised & p^d for the building & erecting of fortes w^{ch} were never finished, but suffered to goe to ruin, the Artillery buried in the sand, & spoiled w^{ch} rust for want of care, the Ammunition Imbesel^d as afore^{sa} great quantities of tob^o hath been raised one us his ma^{ties} poore-subjects, besides worke houses, store houses, & other houses for the propogating & incouragem^{nt} of handychraft, and manufacture w^{ch} were by our Burgesses, (to our great charge and burden by their longe & frequent sitting) invented & proposed, yet for want of due care, the s^d houses were never finished, nor made use of, and the propogating of manufacture wholly in a short time Neglected, And noe good ever effected for this his Ma^{ties}

plantation (save the p'ticular profit of the undertakers who as is usual in such cases were large rewarded for thus defrauding us): thus the sume of Eleven Thous^d pounds of tob^o was rayسد in this County for erecting a tannhouse for the County, w^{ch} Coll^o Edw: Hill the father rec'd: & Coll^o Edw, Hill the sonne injoyed & converted to his own use, wthout any acc^t or satisfaction thereof given as we can finde but by the Courte of this County discharged & we utterly defrauded of the same.

In answeare to w^{ch} The proem of the first Article hath its malignancy & reflects upon the Rt. honn^{ble} S^r Will^m Berkley, & ye Grand Assembly of Virg^a taxing them with folly, weakness, and ill governm^t (w^{ch} how unjust soever) it is not my busness to defend, neither am I of partes fit soe to doe, though I stand amazed at the Imprudence of such spirits that would criminate all the world that they mought seem to finde an excuse for theire oune evils; Their charge to me is the Eleven thous^d p^d to and rec^d by my father, and injoyed by me, & converted to my oune use.

Tis true, that in the year 1660: there was an Act made Enjoyn- ing every County in Virg^a to erect and build a tannhouse, to provide curriers, shoemakers, tanners, barke &c: And all things fitt for a tann work as by the Act may appeare, w^{ch} this county taking into consideration the vaste charge that would accrue to the County thereon (w^{ch} the discontented peeple would extreamply murmur at) agreed wth my father to give him Tenn Thous^d p^{ds} of tob^o and caske to fulfill that Act, for w^{ch} my father undertakes it, & to p'form the Act wth all its parts, confesseth Judgm^t to the Courte for 20000 b tob^o soe to doe. In order to the p'formance of w^{ch} he set sawyers to worke for plank Carpenters to build a house, & others to digg tann pitts &c: but before he could finish the worke, or receive his tob^o (in the hands of Anthony Wyat, the then Sher:) dyes; after whose death (w^{ch} was about Christmas the tob^o being rayسد the Septem^r before) the courte moste powerfully & severely calls me to acc^t because the worke was not p'formed. I offered to ingage to comply wth my fathers bargaine, and would indemnify the County, p'form the Act, but this would not please, but I must deliver them the Tenn thous^d p^{ds} of tob^o raised for my father, w^{ch} in truth I must confess, I have repented I did not doe, because I could never get the

greater parte of the tob^o, but I considering the charge I had been at, wth must be p^d for, and tob^o my father had rec'd of the upper county on the same terms, and ye prospect, and hope, of the profit mought be had the worke being once done, made me oppose the desires of the Courte, but after much struggling and many contests (although I took it to be powerfully done, and extorted from me a young man newly come into the world) I came wth the Courte to this agree^{mt} as by their order Octob^r the 22th 1663, may appeare, that I was to finish the Tann-house and Indempnifie the County, as p former agreem^t wth my father & yearly to pay unto the County one Thous^d p^{da} of Tob^o untill the Tenn Thous^d were reimburs^t, wth that yeare, that Octob I began, & reimburs^t the County one Thous^d, and soe continues the yeares 1664: 65 & 66: to pay yearly one Thous^d p yeare but in 66 thus it happened the Magistrates that had taken the list of tytheables in their severall p'cincts, were some of them dead, & others removed themselves from that trouble, other new were appointed in their roome to take lists as usuall but they by mistake, listed into one anothers p'cincts, soe that thereby they overlisted the County aboute forty tytheables to the best of my remembrance, by wth list the levy was layde upon the County, and there being that yeare due to me a quantity of tob^o (to the best of my remembrance foure or five thous^d) wth by me being demanded of the sheriff; the sher. told the mistake of the Tytheables, & that there was not tob^o enough to satisfy me, I complained to the members of the Courte, And in feb. 66 the Courte meets, and upon their Consultation & Consideration, Cutts me off as much of my due as there was surplussage of Tytheables, considering that the raising of more tob^o would be a great heart-burning to the people & wth all considering how hardly & powerfully I had been delt wth all in making me pay that tob^o and considering the ready tob^o I was not obliged to pay, they then discharged me from the full of the tenn Thous^d wth I was to pay yearely, I still p'formeing the act and keeping the tannhouse at work, wth I did doe and p'form from 60 till about 72, when by accident my tannhouse was burnt to my losse above Two hund^d pds sterl.; all which will appear by evidence. and indeed as to the repaym^t of the tob^o at one thous^d p. yeare, had I it in my hands, I should take to be a forced Act and should not

pay one pound thereof, unless the law compelled me, thus have I, though too largely finished my answer to the first article.

Article 2^d.

That the Comiss^{rs} or justices of the peace of this county heretofore have illegally, and unwarrantably taken upon them wthout our consent, from time to time, to impose, raise, and assess, and levy, what taxes, levies, and impositions upon us they have at any time thought good, or best liked, great parte of w^{ch} they have converted to their own use, as in bearing their expense at the Ordinary allowing themselves wages for severall businesses w^{ch} ex officio they ought to doe, and other wages, as p. acc^t of same on the books for levies may appeare.

To the second Article,—I cannot tell in what parte it concerns me, for I doe seriously protest. I never did to my knowledge either raise tob^o illegally, or unwarrantably upon the peeple, neither have I at anytime allowed myself one farthing wages for any act whatsoever done for the peeple p^r the order of court that ought to be don ex officio; or indeed any otherwise, but as to that of bearing the expense of the Ordinary, I say that on the fourth day of feb: 1672: at a court held at Westover, I made an agreement wth the Courte of Charles City County: as by their order of agreem^t will appeare, to finde, allowe, and accomodate the s^d Courte and their imediate officers, wth handsome, wholesome, and conven^t dyet seven Courts in the yeare, and also every courte to finde and allow unto the s^d courte, one case of good brandy, or good wine. In Consideration whereof the s^d courte did oblige themselves to pay unto me the sume of Eight Thous^d p^{ds} of tob^o and caske p^r yeare, how this is a grievance upon me, I cannot inagine, if the Courte hath levyed the tob^o upon them w^{ch} they ought to pay themselves, tis their crime, not myne, but may it please yo^r houn^{rs} about the same time it was in practice in severall counties in Virg^a to raise on the county such sums of tob^o as they were willing to allow for the accomodation of the Comission w^{ch} was looked upon to be an agrievance, complained to the Assembly off, and was by a act of Assemy redressed, since w^{ch} there hath been none raised in our county, and when it was first raised it was with the consent of the peeple.

Article 3^d.

That the sume of twenty five thous^d p^{ds} of tob^o was raised in

this county on us his ma^{ties} subjects, and p^d to Coll^o Edw. Hill and others, for mending and clearing the highways wth we ourselves at our owne charge and laboure were forced to doe, he the s^d Hill and they converting the s^d tob^o to their own use wthout any allowance, or acc^t for the same to us.

In answeare to the 3rd Article :

I answeare, that in or about the yeare 60 : when Coll^o Morrison was Govern^r, there was an act enjoyneing the clearing and mending the king's high ways forty foot broad the cuntrye throughout, at wth time to the best of my remembrance I was Sher: of this county, and had by an order of Courte a p^cinct allotted me, to see & have cleared & mended, & a proportion of tob^o allotted me to pay the workemen wth wth high ways I did soe cleare mend, and did pay wth that very tob^o the workemen for the s^d worke, and severall families wth in my Precinct worked out that tob^o wth should have been raised upon them, as Maj^r Jno. Stith's for one, and if any one wth in my p^cinct can testifye that the workemen were not p^d: I willingly pay all the tob^o allowed me for p^rforming the s^d worke, but to give an Exact acct. how many workemen were employed, who they were, and how p^d tis impossible for me to doe, first because tis of seventeen yeares' standing and unreminded by me, as to be called to acc^t for it, but more especially because that in this late horid mischievous rebellion, the rebells have taken my papers and most villainously have burnt and destroyed them, and amongst the rest besides those papers—deeds, leases, p^tents, bonds, bills, and acc^{ts} to the value of at least, forty thous^d p^{ds} of tob^o, soe that I can give yo^r houn^{ts} noe other acc^t neither was I concerned in the raising thereof being Sherif.

Article 4th :

Charged against me is soe notorious an untruth that they themselves cropt it out, and though they have a great stock, yet had not confidence enough to read it, and therefore shall have no answeare.

Article 5th :

That this county having been illegally taxed, and forced to pay the sume of thirty-three thous^d three hund^d twenty-two p^{ds} tob^o or very neare thereabout for erecting a small house wth in the judgm^t of knowing workemen mought have been done for

less than Tenn Thous^d p^d tob^o, of wth s^d sume of 33322 lbs. tob^o Twenty-one Thous^d Three hund^d seventy-three pds. was p^d to Coll^o Hill afore^{ad}, the remainder of the said sume was p^d to severall others for the frame of the s^d house, boards, covering, bricks, & Brick: layers' & plaisterers' worke, lime, shells, hookes, hinges, dovetailles, & for workemens' provisions & the worke of oxen; wth said house was first pretended for the accomodation of the Justices, the s^d Coll^o Hill the younger having by the severall sumes of tob^o thus rec'd, and gained as afore^{ad}, obtained a stock whereby to enable him to set up an ordinary, pr^vails wth the s^d Commissⁿ first severally and aparte, then together in courte to constitute the s^d house a prison to the end he mought have the use of the same to vent his drink in, and to constitute him Guardian, Warden, or Jaylor, of the prison & to grant him a lease thereof for twenty-one years. And not herewth contented he the s^d Hill minding coveteously to enrich himself by defrauding us his Ma^{ties} subjects, trust divers poore idle dissolute persons wth quantities of drink at his ordinary wth at his extraordinary rate came to great quantities of tob^o more than they were able to pay, and then suing them some to judgm^t or wth we rather believe combining them rather to confess judgem^t for the said debts, and then causing them to be taken in Execution and he himself Jaylor as afore^{ad} suffereth them to escape, and then compels us his Ma^{ties} subjects to pay the debts to the great impoverishment of this county.

To the 5th Article I answear, that at a courte held at Westover in Aug^t the 6th, 1672: the courte entered this as their order & agree^{mt}. It is agreed by the Justices and Major Edw. Hill that he forthwth finish the house already begunn at the Courte house and ceile and glaze the same, And erect one brick chymney wth two fire hea(r)ths, and the charges thereof that he bring into the courte for allowance &c.

According to wth agreem^t I employed workemen, procured boards, made Bricks, found lime &c: And in fine finished the s^d house, and bought tables, formes & stooles, as p their directions and as p acc^t. will appeare, wth acc^t of the severall charges, to the Bricklayer for building the chimney, and for filling & white liming the house, to Mr. Place for ceiling boards to Mr. Geo. Harris for Brickmaker, to Mrs Ann Bland for nayles, and shells

&c: and to Cap^t Southcot* for dyet, &c—the courte viewed, considered, and allowed to the severall p'sons here nominated, and p^d it themselves, wth I was never concerned wth. To the the carpenters, & labourers, oxen, timber, and all other necessaryes, a p acct, will appeare amounting to the vallue of thirteen Thous^d foure hun^d & thirty p^d of tob^o & caske wth the courte allowed me and how this comes to be a crime in me tis beyond my apprehension, for if the courte thought it not reasonable it lay in their power to deny the paym^t: and stand a suit at law, for the acc^t, I will, if required make oath to every article, and I pray yo^r houn^r to take this into yo^r consideration, that tob^o in those times was worth but five shillings p. hundred, considering the loweness of the price then, and the price it usually bears, the rates charged for worke are not so extraordinary, neither am I concerned in the raising of it upon the peeple, being the party agrre^d wth all to doe their worke. And as to the p'tence that it was first intended for the accomodation of the Justices and by my wit and cunning turned into a prison, it signyfyes nothing, for whether it were a prison, or a house of accomodation for the Justices, if they leased it to me it was of the same use to me, but indeed I thought it moste reasonable it should be a prison, because the law enjoyned every county to build a prison on a penalty, and this county had none 'till then. And whereas I am charged to be covetously minded to enrich myself by defrauding his Ma^{ties} subjects, I am in a study w^{ch} way it should be, and in what I have done it; Tis possible that they I have entrusted with the sale of my wine and drink and ye keeping of my ordinary, have trusted some poore men, beyond what I have been willing, to my losse, that I have ever sued or been severe In execution I must utterly deny, for in this twenty years (I am very confident) I have not sued tenn persons although there is scores have been my debtors, & severall of them in seven yeares never p^d me, and I am sure of all I ever arrested, I never served execution but on two in my life, on one of w^{ch} they Ground this clamour, the story to the best of my remembrance is thus:

* Captain Otho Southcoat is mentioned in the Byrd land title book as being a resident at Westover, an attorney for the owner, Sir John Paulett.

About Aug^r 1675 one Will^m Steward became my debter six hund^d thirty three p^a tob^o & caske, and was alsoe one Merridith Davis debter three hund^d p^a tob^o & cask, Merridith sues him, and being in some feare of the fellowes running away, I doe soe too, we both have judgm^a. Merridith taketh out execution, and I the like, he is put in prison and there some time remains. I offer him to take the whole debt to myself, if he could finde any security to pay his debt in a yeares time, he breakes prison and makes his escape, Hue and crye pursue him but to noe purpose. At the next Levy Courte I put the case to the Courte, that considering there was a sufficient prison built according to law, that the keeper had faithfully done his office, and yet the prisoner had escaped it were their judgm^t that the Warden or Keeper should pay the creditor or the Cred^r loose his debt, there being noe fault in the keeper, or prison, or whether in such cases the county should make good the debt, and not put the losse on one man only, and prayed that they would please to give some rule in it, the Courte considering the rarity of the case heere in Virgin^a & the smallness of the sune, it being little more than one p^d of tob^o p^p pole resolve to raise it on the county, wherein yo^r houn^t may please to take notice, that the Justices raise it as well on themselves and their estate & families as on the other parts of the peeple, but how, and why this is my particular crime I am yet to understand, for in this case the Courte acted, consulted, and resolved, w^hout me, being a party in the case. Thus have I moste truly w^hout cunning, or falsity, answered to all the crimes and misdemeanors, that the mallice, wit, cunning, & industry of my most ingenious enemyes could heap ag^t me during the space of nineteen or twenty yeares, that I have sate a Justice in the Courte of Charles City county before the rebellion. And now may it please y^or houn^t I must begg yo^r testimony that I did then when I had Extemporily answered these foregoing w^{ch} the following articles demand of all the peeple and challenged them to charge me wth one unjust sentence, or the taking of a bribe or for any misdemeanors in my office civil or millitary, w^{ch} they then, and there could not; nor did doe.

Article 6th.

That in or aboute the 25th of January laste paste when the

late comotions were appeased, & quieted the s^d Edw Hill wthout any Warrant or authority unlawfully tooke upon him to raise by impress a company of men wthin this County to the number of thirty horsemen wth their Armes, whome he presumptuously did take upon him to Command, and lead out of the County, and Continued to lead them into divers partes of the Country at his will & pleasure and aboute his proper private occasions to the great vexation & oppression of the s^d men, & contrary to the peace, and it hath been frequent wth him to impress men in his ma^{tes} name when he & his friends were going abroad to their proper occasions to be merry to rowe the boate, to their great oppression.

And now may it please yo^r houn^{ty} I am come to answeare for my not being a rebell, for it is moste evident to the meanest capacity, that had I been as notorious a villain & rebell, as those my accusers, and wth them adhered to that grand rebell Bacon I had not had any of those Clamours brought ag^t me, for I am charged to answeare for those very acts of loyalty and obedience, I did by the comission of the R^t hon^{ble} S^r Will^m Berkeley then Govern^r and Capt. Gen^l of Virgin^a, And it makes me stand amazed to thinke (that such p^rsons soe criminall as themselves are) from whence they should have a prospect of hope, that their actions in this kinde should be countenanced, I must confess had I taken the Counsel & advice of Blayton, when he came over to me (the first day of Bacon's and ye peeples rising in armes) to persuade me to join wth him (telling me I should gaine the love of the peeple, otherwise I should have their hate) it would have saved me a hund^d and odd thous^d p^d of tob^o wth to any unbiassed p^rson I can make appeare I have loste, besides the being kept out of my debts. And when I told him my opinion that it would fall like the rebellion in England, that the Govern^r and gentlemen of the countrey, would be ruined, he gave me for answeare the people of England had some reason for some of their rebellion, and when he found that would not take, would then have p^rsued me not to have sent the amunition according to Act of Assembly (thereby to put it in the Rebell's hands who then threatened to take it) enveighing ag^t the Lawes, as foolish & noe way for the safety and p^rservation of the Countrey, (wth discourse abroad wthout doubt gave life

and vigour to the rebellion) after wth in June Assembly was Bacon's great engin, in so much that he would have had Capt. Tho: Gardner downe in his knees in the head of Bacon's Army, and I aske Bacon forgiveness for takeing of him by the Govern^r Comission, & after Bacon had forced his Comission, he waites on him in Armes, procures a comission for his deare sonne that notorious condemned villaine Joanes & Mr. Biss, &c: Alsoe a good Justice in administ'ring and takeing Bacon's Oathe wth great zeale, after this writes Bacon's declarations for him, and yet after Bacon's death becomes Ingram's representative and Chayreman of them, and when he found the rope of sand would breake, and all the Countrey in a manner subdued, then thinks it time to shuffle in for a pardon; and truely Mr. Ming's just such another Bacon's Great friends in formeing the lawes, and letter in June Assembly, where he was clerke as the other Burgess, and to shew his true zeale to the cause uncomanded (and direct contrary to the Govern^r proclamation) waites on Ingram's called representatives, and there officiates as clerke, and all for the servis of the King and Country, though direct contrary to his houn^r comands, and now (my hand is in) let me begg yo^r houn^r patience to tell you the merits & worth of the subscribers, for though there was more chosen, onely seven subscribed, and for Mr. Biss, besides the giveing and takeing Bacon's oathe he was one of Bacon's Captains, led men to Toune in Armes, when the Govern^r came first from Accomake, and though he then ran away as well as the rest, yet after that tooke new courage and raised men to oppose the Govern^r and that (wthout couller of power, or shew thereof) (as they charge me) from his Gen^l Wyat from the beginning as opposer of the Govern^r comands as by his letters to me will appeare, but when Bacon had his comission tooke about forty soldjers, his drum and coullers, and waites on Bacon to the falls, where his drum, coullers and soldjers are taken from him, and the gentlemen sent back naked wth shame; Mr. Duke was one of Bacons good Justices in hastening, forwarding, taking and giving, of Bacons oathe, and because Bacons Capt. Nevet Wheeler, should not want force to fight & destroy the Govern^r soldjers, sends two of his oune servants that shed the first Christian blood, and alsoe before that sent one to goe wth Bacon the Occaneechee march, and for Mr. Bernard Sykes, he was Mr. Blands great friend in helping him

to raise men to force the Comission, And after that to be one of Ingrams representatives and all for the Kings good servis as for Mr. Grendon although he was not in the country, yet his good wife was, & therefore is engaged, but I shall be silent, and let me begg yo' houn^m not to blame me for onely touching the faults of these my enemyes, when yo' honn^m see it is, and hath been theire study soe falsly to criminate me. And now by yo' houn^m leave, I will come to the 6th Article and the first since the rebellion, & indeed they have cleered before they began to accuse me by Charging it on the Rt. houn^{ble} S^r Will^m Berkley but how truely let the world judge.

In answeare to the 6th Article—

I must wth trouble and sorrow say that I am grieved to see the spirit of rebellion soe strong and fresh in the hearts of these people that would make it a grievance of the County for to obey those just comands w^{ch} I received from his houn^r, and I should think theire true grievance should be that they were soe active and mischievous as they were from the beginning of the rebellion to the end thereof, and were the first that against the King's Govern^r comands went out upon the Occaneechees, were the very men to help Bacon to force his comission, and marched a hundred miles out of theire own country as low as Lower Norfolk to fight the king's loyall subjects, and over into Gloucester, and indeed all over the country, and in fine were the first in armes, and the laste that opposed and faced the King's Govern^m power, yet these noe grievances, And I bless God, and truely rejoice in the great goodness and mercey of our most gracious king that they are pardoned; but me thinks wth modesty they mought have given me leave to have had my grievances that my house was plundered of all I had, my sheep all destroyed, my hoggs and cattle killed, all my grain taken and destroyed, wheat, barley, oates, & Indian graine, to the quantity of seven, or eight hundred bushels, and to compleat theire jollity draw my brandy, Butts of wyne and syder by payles full, and to every health instead of burning theire powder, burnt my writings, bills, bonds, acc^{ts} to the true vallue of forty thous^d p^{ds} of tob^o and to finish theire barbarism, take my wife bigg wth child prisoner, beat her wth my Cane, tare her childbed linen out of her hands, and wth her ledd away my children where they must live on corne and water and lye on the ground, had it not been for the charity of

good people, and would not suffer them to feed on my own provisions, or have a bed to lye on, this sad, but true theam hath made me runn too long, but to my answeare I had a comission full, and ample, from the Rt. houn^{bis} the King's Govern^r to raise men throughout James River, I came up in armes wth Coll^o Jos: Bridger into the county about the ninth of January laste upon the South syde, his comission not extending to the North syde. I went thither where I finde Capt. Jno. Stith,* and Mr. Daniel Clarke had assumed to raise men for the king, and countrey's servis. I called the comandars & sold^{rs} together, read them my comission, ask them if they would be obeydient to me as theire cheiftane; they answeare wth one voice they will: upon wth I gave them all the sold^{rs} Oath except two notorious villaines, Jn^o. Baxter who I knew was taken prisoner, and forced there, and Henry May; being the same oath that Coll^o Jas. Bridger administered to the peeple on the South syde, I gave the comand to the soldj^{rs} to Cap^t Stith and Mr. Clarke, and tooke six horsemen home wth me, and ordered Cap^t Stith and Mr. Clarke to send me fifteen horsemen well armed out of each of theire companies because that I heard Laurence was upon the borders of our County, wth accordingly they did, I left tenn at Mr. Grenons as a guard upon that estate, and sent Baxter there as prisoner, the other twenty I tooke over wth me into New Kent, and whereas they say the countrey was at quiet, there was then aboute forty men upon theire guard at Mr. Cook's house in henrico, standing upon the borders of this county, and there was continued untill after the Govern^r was conducted home to his house, Green Spring; I proceed on wth my troope Inquiring for

* Captain, afterwards Major John Stith, had a grant of land in Charles City county in 1663. In 1676, the House of Burgesses that met under Bacon's auspices disfranchised him, as being one of the chief causes of the existing troubles. He was a practising lawyer in 1680, sheriff of Charles City 1691, and member of the House of Burgesses 1685, 1692, and 1693 (*Journal*). He married —, and had issue: 1. Col. Drury, sheriff of Charles City, 1714-'20, and 1724-'5, and first clerk of Brunswick county; married Susanna, daughter of Launcelot Bathurst, of New Kent; 2. William, married Mary, daughter of Wm. Randolph, of "Turkey Island," and was the father of Rev. Wm. Stith, the historian and president of William and Mary College; 3. John, of Charles City county; Burgess 1718-'23; 4. Anne, married Col. Robert Bolling.

Laurence, whome I heard was fled, I troope away one ag^t West Point, goe on board Capt. Larramore that night; next morning I come to them from aborde, from whence I brought two bookes of acc't (to theire great grievance because they were not burnt wth the rest that theire debts mought have been easily p^d), w^{ch} my men did carry, from thence I trooped away through that ~~the~~ county of New Kent to wayte upon the Govern^r, whome I met, and wayted upon hime to his house, green spring, and there disband the soldj^{rs}, and this is the true reason of the grievance of that Article, the latter parte of it is soe fals, and nothing in it that I think worth my answeare; yet I remember that about the 8th of April, 1676, when I went up to Maj^r-Gen^l Woods* about the powder, as p. order of Assembly, I either hired or impressed two men to rowe me up wth two of my owne and Mr. Bland and his wife being then at my house went up wth me to the Maj^r-Generalls, and I remember I carried some bottles of wyne wth me, but those men, if they were imprest (w^{ch} I cannot say), I p^d myself and never charged the publique nor county wth, and if I had I think it had been but reasonable, for I neglected noe time and was doing th country's business, but yo^r houn^{rs} may see how that small errors in me become great faults.

* Major-General Abraham Wood, who resided near the present site of Petersburg, was long a prominent and influential man. He was a Burgess for Henrico February, 1644-'5; November, 1645; March, 1645-'6; October, 1646 (when he was entitled captain). At the session of October, 1646, it was enacted that Captain Abraham Wood, "whose service hath been employed at Fort Henry" (on the Appomattox), should be granted the fort and six hundred acres adjoining on the condition that he kept ten armed men there for three years. In April, 1652, as Major Abraham Wood, he was Burgess for Charles City; and again in November, 1654. In December, 1656, as Lieutenant-Colonel Abraham Wood, he was again a member of the House, and at the same session was appointed colonel of the regiment of Charles City and Henrico, in the place of Edward Hill. In March, 1657-'8, he was elected a member of the Council, and continued for a number of years to form one of that body. One of his daughters is said to have married Peter Jones, one of the family from whom Petersburg derived its name; and another, as the Henrico records show, married Major Thomas Chamberlayne of that county.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]